

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /072 W
-----084518 031058Z /15

R 031010Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3810

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL WEEK

REF: MANILA 5093

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY RAISED NO NEW ISSUES DURING THE CAMPAIGN'S FINAL WEKEND, AND THE "FOREIGN-MEDDLING" THEME WAS NOT REPLAYED. SUPREME COURT REJECTED OPPOSITION LABAN PARTY'S PROTEST OVER EXTENDED VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE. LABAN HAS DENIED GETTING FOREIGN SUPPORT. LABAN PLANS A "NOSIE BARRAGE" ON FINAL DAY OF CAMPAIGN. JAPANESE EMBASSY TELLS US ONE "MEDDLER" IS ALREADY IN JAPAN AND THE OTHER IS UNKNOWN. THE THIRD EDITION OF THE OPPOSITION'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER HAS APPEARED. END SUMMARY.

2. AS THE ELECTION DATE OF APRIL 7 APPROACHES, THE GOVERNMENT'S KBL CANDIDATES, HEADED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS, HAD A HEAVY WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF RALLIES. NO NEW THEMES HAVE BEEN RAISED, AND THE ANTI-FOREIGN ISSUE WHICH AHD BEEN STRESSED IN PREVIOUS DAYS WAS APPARENTLY NOT MENTIONED.

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3. THE SUPREME COURT ON MARCH 31 DENIED A PETITION BY THE OPPOSITION LABAN GROUP TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FROM ALLOWING VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH APRIL 3. THE VOTE WAS 8 TO 2, WITH JUSTICES FERNANDO AND TEEHANKEE DISSENTING AND JUSTICE MUNOZ-PALMA ABSENTING HERSELF. THIS WAS THE THIRD LABAN DEFEAT IN THE SUPREME COURT IN THREE TRIES. LABAN ANNOUNCED APRIL 2, HOWEVER,

THAT IT WAS CONTESTING IN THE COURTS ALL VOTER REGISTRATIONS
FILED AFTER MARCH 30.

4. ON MARCH 31 A LABAN CANDIDATE DENIED THAT LABAN IS
RECEIVING FOREIGN SUPPORT. HE CLAIMED THAT SINCE LABAN
ADVOCATES POLICIES WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE FOREIGN INFLUENCE
IN THE COUNTRY, "IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT FOREIGNERS
WOULD SUPPORT US". LABAN CANDIDATE AQUILINO PIMENTEL CITED
LABAN ADVOCACY OF THE REMOVAL OF U.S. MILITARY BASES,
NATIONALIZATION OF IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES NOW UNDER ALIEN
CONTROL, AND THE ABROGATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT
LAWS.

5. A LABAN VOLUNTEER WORKER TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 2 THAT
ONLY 14,000 POLL-WATCHERS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED (2,000 OF
THEM PRIESTS AND NUNS), THUS CUTTING BACK ON LABAN'S
HOPES TO HAVE MULTIPLE WATCHERS AT EACH OF MANILA'S
12,000 POLLING PLACES. (MANILA 4693)

6. LABAN APRIL 2 CALLED ON ITS SUPPORTERS TO JOIN A 5-
MINUTE "NOISE BARRAGE" ON APRIL 5, THE LAST DAY OF CAM-
PAIGNING, BY HONKING HORNS, TURNING UP RADIOS, ETC
"WHATEVER MAY BE THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS
IF WE CAN EXPRESS OUR SENTIMENTS THROUGH THIS NOISE
DEMONSTRATION, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN BEHIND US. LET US SHOW THE WORLD THAT OUR
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PEOPLE CANNOT BE SILENCED BY THE DICTATORIAL MARCOS
GOVERNMENT AND WILL ALWAYS DARE TO EXPRESS THEIR PROTEST."
TIMES JOURNAL SAYS THE "BARRAGE" IS SET FOR 12:30 P.M.;
BULLETIN TODAY SAYS 5:30 P M.

7. JAPANESE DCM SPOKE WITH POLCOUNS APRIL 3 ABOUT THE TWO
JAPANESE NATIONALS ORDERED DEPORTED FOR ELECTION
INTERFERENCE (MANILA 5094). ONE MICHI NAKAMURA) IS AN APOLITICAL
TOURIST GUIDE WHO HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO JAPAN BEFORE
THE DEPORTATION ORDER WAS ISSUED. SHE APPARENTLY VISITED
BRIEFLY WITH LABAN CANDIDATE TRINIDAD HERRERA AND WAS
THEN INTRODUCED TO A GROUP OF ABOUT 40 LABAN SUPPORTERS.
THE OTHER DEPORTEE, NIGATORI NIKORAYA, IS UNKNOWN TO
JAPANESE EMBASSY; THEY POINT OUT NAME IS POSSIBLY NOT
JAPANESE. GOP HAS PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS. JAPANESE DCM
NOTED THAT KABATAANG BARANGAY DID NOT "DEMONSTRATE" AT JAPANESE

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3811
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 5229

EMBASSY MARCH 31, AS THEY DID AT U.S. EMBASSY (MANILA 5142).

8. THIRD EDITION OF UNDERGROUND OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER MALAYAANG PHILIPINAS WAS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS EDITION HAS 16 PAGES (5 IN TAGALOG AND 11 IN ENGLISH) AND IS MORE HEAVILY ELECTION-ORIENTED THAN PREVIOUS EDITIONS. LEAD STORY CITES SEVERAL OPINION POLLS WHICH FAVOR LABAN CANDIDATES. PAPER CARRIES FULL TEXT OF MARCH 25 LETTER BY LABAN LEADER BENIGNO AQUINO TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, WHO WILL ADMINISTER THE POLLS, REQUESTING FAIR TREATMENT AT MANILA POLLING PLACES. LETTER CONCLUDES: QUOTE: GUARANTEE US - LAKAS NG BAYAN - A FREE AND AN HONEST ELECTION OF APRIL 7, 1978, AND YOU SHALL WITNESS THE BLOSSOMING OF AN UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL UNITY. BUT ALLOW US TO BE CHEATED IN THE COMING POLLS AND YOU SHALL HAVE ONLY YOURSELVES TO BLAME IF THIS REPUBLIC WE ALL LOVE IS TORN ASUNDER BY STRIFE. GIVE US AN HONEST COUNT AND YOU GIVE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE A STABILITY THAT SHALL PROPEL OUR NATION TO PROSPERITY. FRUSTRATE THE PEOPLE'S TRUE WILL BY MANIPULATING THE RESULTS AND YOU PLANT THE SEEDS OF A LONG DARK NIGHT OF FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT. SHOULD YOU ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE BOUGHT OR INTIMIDATED, SHOULD YOU SHIRK FROM YOUR SACRED DUTY AND COMPROMISE YOUR INTEGRITY, SHOULD YOU ALLOW US, THE HANDFUL OF MEN AND
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GXC MEN WHO DARED CHALLENGE THE MOST POWERFUL DICTATORSHIP OUR COUNTRY HAS KNOWN, TO BE DEPRIVED OF THE FRUITS OF OUR HAND-EARNED VICTORY, THEN THE BLOOD OF OUR COUNTRYMEN WHO SHALL SURELY DIE DEFENDING OUR FREEDOMS WILL BE ON YOUR CONSCIENCE. WHERE ELSE CAN A DESPERATE

PEOPLE GO IF THEY HAVE BEEN ABANDONED BY THE VERY COLLECTIVE
CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION, THE TEACHERS? UNQUOTE.
COPY OF MALAYAANG PHILIPINO POUCH TO EA/PHL.

9. MANILA PRESS REPORTS ARSONISTS BURNED THE TOWN HALL
OF CARDONA, RIZAL PROVINCE, PROVINCE, APRIL 1. A BOMB REPORTEDLY
EXPLODED NEAR A KBL OFFICE IN PARANAQUE, METRO MANILA,
APRIL 1. SMALL BOMBS WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY TOSSED AT SUBURBAN
MANILA ELECTRIC COMPANY SUBSTATIONS, CAUSING MINOR DAMAGE
MARCH 29 AND APRIL 1.
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